Approved for use through OMB 0651-0032 emark Office: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office:

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U.S. Department of Comm	nerce		08/835,419	 -}G₁
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	Examiner N		T. McMahon	
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Date 4-14-98

Hy/A / 1/03/78

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

FRAAS et al.

Serial No. 08/835,419

Art Unit: 1312

Filed: April 9, 1997

Examiner: T. McMahon

For: PRETREATMENT PROCESS TO REMOVE OXYGEN FROM COAL EN ROUTE TO A COAL PYROLYSIS PROCESS AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY

OF THE HYDROCARBON LIQUID PRODUCT

RESPONSE

To the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 14, 1998, kindly amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Page 25, line 1, change "I claim" to --We claim--.

Kindly rewrite the following claim:

22. (Amended) [The] A process of coal pyrolysis pretreatment [using the apparatus of claim 1] comprising providing a pretreatment vessel for holding a bed of coal particles, heating the bed of coal particles to a temperature below the coal pyrolysis temperature range in a preheater, preventing air from contacting the bed of coal particles in an enclosure around the vessel, and removing the oxygen released from the heated coal particles and transporting it away from the enclosure for keeping the partial pressure of oxygen in the

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